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A3

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PTQ0966

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

PAGE 01 CARACA 03076 01 OF 04 022058Z  
ACTION STR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00
	WHA-00	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	OIGO-00	E-00
	FAAE-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	ACE-00	TRSE-00	EPAE-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/005W		
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R 022018Z OCT 02  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7963  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
USCINCSO MIAMI FL  
NSC WASHDC  
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 CARACAS 003076

STATE PASS USTR - HARMON  
JUSTICE FOR RICHARD PRESTON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/10  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ETRD, EINV, SNAR, VE  
SUBJECT: SEPT. 26 MEETING OF USG-GOV BILATERAL WORKING  
GROUP

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CHARLES SHAPIRO, REASON 1.5(B)  
AND (D) .

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SUMMARY  
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1. (C) THE U.S.- VENEZUELA BILATERAL WORKING GROUP (BWG)  
DISCUSSED A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, HUMAN  
RIGHTS, CONSULAR, SECURITY AND COUNTER-NARCOTICS ISSUES  
ON SEPTEMBER 26.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JAMES F COOPER  
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 2 OCT 2020  
DATE/CASE ID: 17 JUL 2009 200902145

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SEPTELS REPORT CONSULAR  
ISSUES DISCUSSED IN A BREAKOUT SESSION, AS WELL AS DAS  
SHANNON'S SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH GOV, OPPOSITION AND  
TRIPARTITE WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS. END SUMMARY.

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HUMAN RIGHTS  
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[REDACTED]

USAID WILL SOON HAVE A PERMANENT OFFICE IN VENEZUELA AND WILL BEGIN MAKING FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMS TO HELP FOSTER DIALOGUE AND STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY. DRL DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ROBERT JACKSON ADDED THAT THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE WILL SOON IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS IN VENEZUELA. THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY, HE SAID, HAD SIGNED SIX GRANTS FOR PROGRAMS PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND STRENGTHENING CONFLICT RESOLUTION MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS IN AREAS SUCH AS TACHIRA, ARAGUA AND MONAGAS. [REDACTED]

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ACTION STR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DODE-00	WHA-00
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	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01
	NSAE-00	OES-01	PM-00	ACE-00	TRSE-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/006W

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INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00
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	AC-01	NSAE-00	OES-01	ACE-00	TRSE-00	EPAE-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/005W		
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 CARACAS 003076

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HYDROCARBONS LAW  
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11. (U) THE AMBASSADOR RAISED U.S. ENERGY INVESTORS' UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER EXPANSION OF EXISTING INVESTMENTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW HYDROCARBONS LAW, WHICH HAS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS GENEROUS OWNERSHIP AND ROYALTY REQUIREMENTS. STATING THAT LACK OF CLARITY IS IMPEDING SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS HE URGED A LEGISLATIVE FIX, OR AT LEAST WRITTEN GUARANTEES FROM GOV AUTHORITIES. THE GOV DELEGATION ASSERTED THAT EXISTING INVESTMENTS WOULD NOT BE MADE SUBJECT RETROACTIVELY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW LAW. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER, COMMIT TO PROVIDE ANY WRITTEN GUARANTEES. THEY NOTED THAT THE HYDROCARBONS LAW WAS BEING REVIEWED IN COMMITTEE

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AGRICULTURAL TRADE  
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12. (SBU) DAS SHANNON BROUGHT UP INCREASING U.S. CONCERN  
OVER GOV TRADE BARRIERS TO U.S. AGRICULTURAL GOODS. HE  
SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE DIFFERENTIAL APPLICATION OF  
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VALUE-ADDED TAX TO AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS VERSUS DOMESTIC  
PRODUCTION AND THE ARBITRARY IMPOSITION OF IMPORT  
RESTRICTIONS ON CORN, CHEESE AND GRAPES. HE NOTED THAT  
THE USG WAS CONSIDERING SEEKING WTO REVIEW OF VENEZUELAN  
IMPORT PRACTICES. GOV VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
OSWALDO CARNEVALLI JUSTIFIED GOV ACTIONS, CITING FOOD  
SECURITY AND THE NEED TO PROTECT DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. HE  
CRITICIZED U.S. AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES, AND ARGUED THAT,  
AS THE GOV COULD NOT AFFORD AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES AS  
DOES THE U.S., IT MUST USE OTHER MEANS TO PROTECT ITS  
FARMERS.

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ATPA  
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13. (U) TRADE VICE MINISTER MACIAS LAMENTED VENEZUELA'S  
EXCLUSION FROM RENEWAL/ENHANCEMENT OF THE ANDEAN TRADE  
PREFERENCE ACT. HE ASSERTED THAT THE GOV HAS CONSISTENTLY  
COMBATED THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE AND DESERVED THE SAME  
SUPPORT. DAS SHANNON PROMISED TO CONVEY THIS INTEREST IN  
WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT ATPA HAD  
ORIGINALLY BEEN PASSED IN 1991 AT A TIME WHEN VENEZUELA

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WAS NOT A MAJOR NARCOTICS TRANSIT COUNTRY, AND THAT WHEN  
THE TIME CAME FOR RENEWAL IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT  
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EXPANSION TO OTHER COUNTRIES WAS NOT POLITICALLY  
FEASIBLE.

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STEEL  
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SHAPIRO

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